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Conclusions are to be supported, so far as possible, by histological as well as physiological evidence. The competition is limited to residents of North America, and the prize will be awarded for original work done between January 1, 1890, and October 1, 1891. Communications concerning the prize should be addressed to Professor H. Newell Martin, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

PSYCHOLOGY.

The Effect of Whistling on Seals.—While reading of “Instances of the Effects of Musical Sounds on Animals,” by Mr. Stearns, in which I have been much interested, it recalled to my mind apparently similar effects produced upon seals, which I often noticed during a prolonged stay in Hudson’s Strait. Here the Eskimo might often be seen lying at full length at the edge of an ice-floe, and, although no seals could be seen, they persistently whistled in a low note similar to that often used in calling tame pigeons, or, if words can express my meaning, like a plaintive phe-ew, few-few, the first note being prolonged at least three seconds. If there were any seals within hearing distance they were invariably attracted to the spot, and it was amusing to see them lifting themselves as high as possible out of the water, and slowly shaking their heads, as though highly delighted with the music.

Here they would remain for some time, until one perhaps more venturesome than the rest, would come within striking distance of the Eskimo, who, starting to his feet with gun or harpoon, would often change the seal’s tune of joy to one of sorrow, the others making off as fast as possible.

The whistling had to be continuous, and was more effective if performed by another Eskimo a short distance back from the one lying motionless at the edge of the ice.

I may add that the experiment was often tried by myself with the same result.—F. F. PAYNE, *Toronto, March 26, 1890.*